6/9/71

Dear Hal,

I've had working company, which took some time, as has Lil's accident. Shortly I'll awaken her for the trip to DC to see an orthopaedist. Considering everything, she seems to be doing okay. We'll know later. Probably much theraphy.

However, I've kept working. Drafts of two ,ong chapters of AGENT OSWALD are en route to PH and JNS, I've a third one awaiting retyping, and I've begun another. Meanwhile, I've also done a bit of other thinking.

Given the combination of the taboo and a non-perfroming publisher (everyone else thinks they have abdicated or sold old, chiefly the latter), making something of FRAME-UP is close to impossible. But this does not tell me I must not do what I can. The enclosed carbon reflects an attempt to break through via feedback. It can do no good in England, if it succeeds, for there is no sengle copy of the book there, not even my agent having gotten one. Only that which BBC flew accross the ocean.

The close to total silence in the press and the nature of the reviewers' gangup shows, I think, that everything is even more uptight than on JFK. Blacks in several walks of life were about to turn on, then didn't. Media people promised things in a few cases and did nix. I have to ask myself why and I have no answers.

I also know that this means the book will be disappearing from the stores, has already from displays where the subject or my rep caused them to be made.

Your silence I can attribute to your preoccupations with other things, like work, getting settled in a new place, etc. But it would be good to know it is not because of reluctance or opposition you have met. There are too many things that are not what I would have expected. Harv, for example, has not even acknowledged getting a copy of the book. The publishers say they sent those I asked be sent, but in no case did anyone of those I have considered my friends let me know, so I do not even know if the books were sent out. I did speak to Owen Spann's producer and he said they'd be back. That was well over a month ago. I did write Eason several times, and several times I left phone messages. No response from Jim, which is perhaps a bigger personalx disappointment than his refusal to do a show. I have to consider it as a refusal, and his silence is really perplexing. Has success changed Jim Eason? That much?

You see, if with all the other too-many worries I am to do anything with this, I must know the score. That there has been no single thing in SF is to me incredible, given the past. And it is entirely inconsistent with the reaction I've had the few places I've been and done. Example: last night I was to have taped 8 minutes with Hilly Rose, who I never did before. He used to be in SF but is at KABC. So, we did better than twice that because he got interested. He then asked if I'd do an hour if he could get an okay. That, apparently, is exceptional for them. Barry Farber, the "liberal", the man who as finked out on every assassination airing he has ever done, wound up endorsing me and my work, the unheard of. The young fellow who did me in Washington I had to discourage from more, because I know his station longer than he does, and he'd get fired, as another did. Where it is station policy at WMCA not to air the same guest twice within 3 months, I did two shows for one guy the same day, one live and one for the can. At WOR, I was actually aired on back-to-back shows, exceptional, really unheard of. And I repeated one three weeks later. Other things, too. So, it is not reaction to me or the subject where I'm aired. And, I know it need not be any single thing. But what it is where it would be good to know, so I ask the score in SF. If you've not been able to do anything, I can understand that, but if you've been turned down, I want to know...Other reactions are pluses. We did a small mailing on our own. Ther % response was by far the best we've ever had. So, as a sample reading, it is inconsistent with media response. Even the Army has the book on its current recommended list, but silence from all the old friends? Best, Hal